LODGE HISTORY

In the spring of 1850, a group of six Masonic Brethren affiliated with another lodge but residing in Carbondale or vicinity met in the offices of Brothers Henry Evans and John G. Murray on April 22, 1850. The purpose of this meeting was to prepare plans for the organization of a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Carbondale.

The preliminary steps having been taken, several other meetings were held and temporary officers were selected. Brother Judson W. Burnham was delegated to visit the Grand Lodge at Philadelphia and request a warrant for the proposed Lodge. The letter of application forwarded to Grand Lodge in this connection is copied hereunder:

To the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging:

> We, the undersigned, being regular Master Masons formerly members of the Lodge mentioned against our respective names, and at this time not members of any lodge, pray for a Warrant of Constitution empowering us to meet as a regular Lodge at Carbondale in the County of Luzerne to be called Carbondale Lodge No. 249 and there to discharge the duties of masons in a constitutional manner according to the forms of the order and the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, and we have nominated and do recommend Brother Judson W. Burnham to be the first Master, Brother Robert Maxwell to be the first Senior Warden and Brother John G. Murray to be the first Junior Warden of the said Lodge. The prayer of this petition being granted, we promise strict conformity to the ancient landmarks of the Order and the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

	Judson William Burnham
	Robert Maxwell
No. 218	John G. Murray
Hailing from Honesdale	William Root
Lodge	Henry Evans
	Rice Lewis

On Wednesday, September 11, 1850, a meeting was held in the Odd Fellows' Hall on South Church Street when the Lodge was formally constituted by District Deputy Grand Master Henry Pettibone and his Grand Officers. The following officers were duly installed: Judson W. Burnham, W.M.; Robert Maxwell, S.W.; John G. Murray, J.W.; William Root, Treasurer and Rice Lewis, Secretary.

In such high esteem were these men held by their fellow citizens, that it was but a short period of time before numerous applications for membership began to pour in and the growth and prosperity of Carbondale Lodge No. 249 became an assured fact. During the one hundred and twenty five years which have passed, twelve hundred and ninety addition members have been added to the membership roll of six warrant members.

14

Lodge History (con'd)

In the year 1874, Brother John Jermyn erected a building on Salem Avenue for the use of the Lodge. The opening ceremonies took place on Thursday, April 22, 1875. The first meeting held in the new building was an extra meeting at which the Entered Apprentice Mason Degree was conferred on Solomon Bolton and the Fellowcraft Mason Degree on Evan Williams and Albert E. Clark.

In 1895, the Masonic Hall Association purchased the property from John Jermyn. The building, known as Masonic Temple, has been in constant use since 1875 by Carbondale Lodge No. 249 meeting on the first Wednesday evening of each month, Eureka Royal Arch Chapter No. 179 meeting on the second Wednesday evening, and Palestine Commandery No. 14 Knights Templar meeting on the third Wednesday evening of each month. Palestine Chapter, Order of DeMolay also used the Meeting room during the Chapters existence. The Craftsmen Club Rooms are located on the second floor of the building and are currently undergoing extensive renovation. These rooms are also used by the Garnet Chapter, Order of Eastern Star meeting on the third Wednesday evening of each month.

PAST MASTERS

Judson W. Burnham	1850	Solomon Bolten	1879
Robert Maxwell	1851	Joseph Alexander, Jr.	1880
Rice Lewis	1852	William A. Weaver	1881
Alfred Darte	1853	Silas A. McMullen	1882
Philo C. Gritman	1854	Joseph M. Alexander	1883
Philo C. Gritman	1855	Rollin H. Smith	1884
Lewis S. Watres	1856	Fred Topping	1885
William R. Baker	1857	John W. Dimock	1886
John L. Gore	1858	George W. Norris	1887
William R. Baker	1859	George W. Norris	1888
James Hosie	1860	William D. Evans	1889
Henry B. Jadwin	1861	William D. Evans	1890
Raymond W. Graves	1862	John O. Miles	1891
William R. Baker	1863	Robert Carter	1892
Hiram Marsh	1864	Gustave F. Swigert	1893
Nathan P. Cramer	1865	Walter Frick	1894
Jerome Underwood	1866	John M. Stewart	1895
Joseph B. VanBergen	1867	Joseph B. Vanaan Jr.	1896
Pierce Butler	1868	Henry Carter	1897
Edward Y. Davies	1869	Charles V. Helms	1898
Joseph B. VanBergen	1870	Frank Love	1899
William R. Baker	1871	William W. Fletcher	1900
Jesse H. Bagley	1872	Frank Couch	1901
Myron H. Barber	1873	William J. Baker	1902
John Robertson	1874	Horace G. Likeley	1903
William L. Yarrington	1875	Horace G. Likeley	1904
William L. Yarrington	1876	Edgar C. Ely	1905
Henry B. Wiebur	1877	Hubert F. Clark	1906
John Scurry	1878	William L. Williams	1907

1972.5